

Clean Version of the Amended Claims

Sub
F2
E1

44. (Thrice Amended) A communication method for use between a first device and a second device in communication over a communication channel, said first device being in communication with a handset, said communication method comprising the steps of:

- detecting said handset going off-hook;
- transmitting a hold request to said second device in response to said handset going off-hook;
- ceasing said communication with said second device over said communication channel by said first device for a period of time; and
- causing a dial tone to be generated for dialing an outgoing call using said handset.

Sub
F3
E2

43. (Amended) A first modem capable of communicating with a second modem over a communication channel, a portion of said communication channel existing over a telephone line between said first modem a central office, said first modem comprising:

- a receiver capable of receiving a relinquishment request, while said telephone line is in use by said first modem for communication with said second modem, to relinquish said use of said telephone line; and
- a transmitter capable of transmitting a hold request to said second modem to place said communication between said modems on hold;

wherein said communication between said modems is placed on hold and said use of said telephone line is relinquished, and wherein said first modem causes a dial tone to be generated over said telephone line after said communication between said modems is placed on hold.

Sub
F4
79. (Amended) A method of sharing a telephone line by a first modem capable of communicating with a second modem over a communication channel, a portion of said communication channel existing over said telephone line between said first modem a central office, said method comprising:

E3
receiving a relinquishment request, while said telephone line is in use by said first modem for communication with said second modem, to relinquish said use of said telephone line;

transmitting a hold request to said second modem to place said communication between said modems on hold;

placing said communication between said modems on hold;

relinquishing said use of said telephone line; and

causing a dial tone to be generated over said telephone line.